

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2014

March 10, 2014

Fact Sheet



What is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day?

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an annual, nationwide observance that sheds light on the increasing impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls. The goal of this day is to offer support and hope, reduce the stigma of HIV/AIDS, and empower women and girls to embrace the theme, “Share Knowledge. Take Action.”

Who leads National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day?

The Office on Women's Health (OWH), within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, coordinates National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

When is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day?

We celebrate National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on March 10, but OWH encourages organizations to hold **Meetups (events)** in observance of this day at any time throughout the month of March. For more information on National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, visit www.womenshealth.gov/nwghaad.

Why observe National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day?

HIV/AIDS is a serious public health issue in the United States. Of the 1.1 million people in the United States living with HIV, women 13 or older make up about 25% of all HIV **diagnoses**.

Why is it important for women and girls to get tested for HIV/AIDS?

Nearly 180,000 people do not know they are HIV-positive. Of this group, about **15%** are women and girls who do not know they have the disease.

It is important that women and girls get tested so they can know their status, make better health choices, and live longer, healthier lives if they are HIV-positive.

If you are HIV-positive, why is it important that you receive ongoing treatment and care?

Treatment can help people with HIV live longer, healthier lives, and it greatly reduces the chances of passing HIV on to others. It also helps delay or prevent HIV from becoming AIDS. Only about **25%** of people with HIV in the United States are successfully keeping their virus under control (suppressed), which means there is no detectable virus in the blood.

Why is it important for a woman living with HIV to get ongoing treatment and care?

OWH encourages women to seek care and treatment if they are HIV-positive so that they can live longer lives with an improved quality of life. Under the Affordable Care Act, a woman with a pre-existing condition, such as HIV or AIDS, can now get the ongoing care and treatment she needs.

In the past, I was denied coverage because I am HIV-positive. How can the Affordable Care Act help me now?

Under the Affordable Care Act, you can no longer be denied insurance because of your health status, including HIV/AIDS. People living with HIV or AIDS have enrolled in the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, which has helped change lives and, in many cases, saved them. Insurers can no longer deny coverage to anyone or impose annual limits on **coverage**.



From where and by when do I need to enroll in a health insurance plan?

People with low and middle incomes may be eligible for tax subsidies that will help them buy coverage from new state **Health Insurance Marketplaces**. Open enrollment ends on March 31, 2014.

The Affordable Care Act and the President's **National HIV/AIDS Strategy** are two important parts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, but the federal government cannot do it alone. On National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, OWH calls on individuals and organizations across the country to take action and bring attention to the impact HIV/AIDS has on women and girls. As a partner for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, you have the power to educate others, change behaviors, and help shape the future for women and girls.

Who should participate in National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day?

OWH invites public and private organizations at the local, state, and national levels to participate.

How can I observe National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day?

You can observe National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day through in-person and online Meetups (www.meetup.com/NWGHAAD2014) or activities. You can hold a town hall meeting, organize an HIV screening event, or spread the word through social media about the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls and ways to prevent HIV infection. Plus, you can join the National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Thunderclap (www.thunderclap.it/projects/8307-hiv-awareness-take-action) on Facebook and/or Twitter. By joining the Thunderclap, you and others will share the same message on March 10 at 12:00 p.m. EDT. The possibilities for participation are endless. For more ideas about how to observe this year's National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, see our list of ideas for a Meetup (www.womenshealth.gov/nwghaad/ideas.html#MeetupIdea).

Additional Resources

Find information:

- The Affordable Care Act and HIV/AIDS
www.aids.gov/federal-resources/policies/health-care-reform
- Health Insurance Marketplace
www.healthcare.gov
- HIV Among Women
www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/gender/women/facts/index.html
- "HIV in the United States: The Stages of Care" fact sheet
www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/research_mmp_stagesofcare.pdf
- The National HIV/AIDS Strategy
www.aids.gov/federal-resources/national-hiv-aids-strategy/overview
- National HIV Prevention Progress Report, 2013
www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/policies_NationalProgressReport.pdf



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